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ABSTRACT

The opinion poll of public school administrators reported in this document is part of a series designed to report scientifically collected data that accurately reflects the views and experiences of specific groups of educators. For this study, a total of 3,300 principals were included in the random sample and 1,502 (46 percent) responded. Tables summarize the data for the total responding group and for the following subgroups: (1) school type (elementary, middle or junior high, and senior high); (2) career plans (principalship my career, considering other career opportunities); (3) sex; (4) age (less than 50 years old, 50 or more years old); and (5) community type (urban, suburban, small town, rural). Questions covered such topics as factors hindering student achievement, satisfaction of the principals with their jobs, and attitudes about the establishment of a national curriculum. Items concerning the schools focused on factors such as enrollment, number of teachers, and methods used to assign students to classes. Included among the questions about the status and experiences of the principals were items about their career plans, the amount of time they spend fulfilling their job-related responsibilities, and their current salary levels. Data from principals' responses are summarized in 41 tables; teachers' responses to a poll conducted at the same time as the principals' survey are summarized in 7 tables. Appended is a technical note with information about estimates of sampling variation, and confidence intervals of percentages and of averages. (MLF)

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